



November 1942

Vol. 2 No. 2

Now We Can Lounge

It is indeed a pleasure to be able to talk about the Engineers' Lounge not as a thing of the future, but rather as a reality located in ME 301. After all these years of waiting, it hardly seems possible to walk into ME 301 and find a very lounge-looking room which we can more or less call our own. And this room is now ready for you engineers to relax in; so drop in and see what you think about it. Let's make it the meeting place of the Engineering School!

But first, a word of caution. Do not forget that the Lounge is surrounded by the offices of the faculty and that too much noise will disturb their work. And another thing: in the Lounge, everything is in its place. Let's keep it that way.

(Continued on Page 5)

Coop Book and The Engineers

The Engineers this year are behind the COOP BOOK as they never were before. They are really going to put on a drive to see that every Engineer in the school knows that there is such a thing as a COOP BOOK, and that they know the many advantages of it.

The bare facts are that it is a book containing eight tickets to eight of the outstanding dances on the school campus, including, and we think featuring, the ENGINEERS' BALL. The price is \$4.40 (or \$.56 per couple per dance) and you can get them from Council members, and society officers.

Rifle Instruction at G. W.

"The purpose of this course is to teach you the safe handling of firearms, the fundamentals of gun construction and operation, and the basic principles of good marksmanship." These are the words used by "Coach" Parsons to introduce the G. W. basic small arms course now in progress.

The course will take about twenty hours of instruction, and is exactly the same as the basic small arms course used by the United States armed forces. The course is sanctioned by them, and is also a registered unit of the National Rifle Association. Graduates will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the course.

Coach Parsons hopes to be able to give each student individual instruction throughout the course.

(Continued on Page 5)

Schedule

Nov. 25 Wed. Theta Tau (long)
Dec. 2 Wed. Societies

Dec. 9 Wed. Engineers Council
Theta Tau

Dec. 16 Wed. Sigma Tau (long)

Dec. 21 Wed. Xmas recess

Dec. 25 Wed. Merry Christmas!

Society meetings and Council meetings start at 8:30 p.m.

Short meetings of Fraternities start at 8:00 p.m. and end at 8:25 p.m.
Long meetings start at 8:00 p.m.

THE MECH-ELECTIV STAFF

Editor	Lou Berkley
Associate Editor	Fred Holcomb
News Editor	Dirk Brady
Column Coordinator	Raphael Cahn
Mail Manager	Michael Bondy
Printer	Harold Thomasson
Columnists:	
M.E. and You	Robt. McCullough
Short Circuits	Dominic Toffolo
Am. Soc. C.E.	Bill Randall
Theta Tau	George Pida
Sigma Tau	Mort Rabineau

Listen, Brother

Listen, Brother, yes listen - to the beat of our heart - the heart of the Mech-electiv. You've heard that it almost stopped beating a while ago. Why? Because too much of the work came to rest on the shoulders of too few. Why again? Because you, and you, and you didn't answer the call for men to write and put out the Mech-electiv. And now we're calling again.

Yes, we know you've heard this stuff before, but you just can't seem to get around to attending the meetings. Men, whether the Mech-electiv rises or falls depends on you. It is a paper written for you, about you, and by you. Its only aims are to be an interesting newspaper, interesting to the G. W. Engineers, and to be a good newspaper, because only a good newspaper will survive.

Think about it, men.

Drop your name, address and phone number into the MECH box with any suggestion or contribution you may have. Think, men, and listen - to the beat of our heart - it's beating just for you.

ENGINEERS AND PEOPLE

Professor Milton K. Akers ... from New York and all other points ... came to G.W. last February ... Asst. Instructor and Fellow in the Engineering Experiment Station, University of Illinois ... operator for the Commonwealth Edison Co., Chicago ... Instructor and finally Head of the Dept. of Electrical Engineering, State College of Washington eleven years ... Research Engineer Bell Laboratory ... and Engineer at Hobart Mfg. Co., fifteen years ... now acting head of the Electrical Engineering Dept. here ... has a swell house in Takoma Park (ask any of several Electrics about Sat. Nov. 7) ... Born Homer, Illinois ... height 5' 8-1/2" ... weight 160 lbs. ... a charming wife, an asset in any life ... MMH

Benjamin C. Cruickshanks, Jr. ... evidently the son of Professor C. of M. E.'s ... likewise enrolled in M.E. school ... graduate of Calvin Coolidge H.S. ... winner of Rensselaer Polytech Alumni medal for proficiency in math ... captain of a cadet corps. company ... born Hartford, Conn. July 4, 19?? ... hobby-electric trains, transportation, railroads ... sports, golf ... score a non-military secret ... also bowling ... score ditto ... women "at times, nothing serious" ... we wonder if G.W.U. will change that..LHB

Margaret Bain ... first girl in the Engineering School ... father- M.E. in air conditioning ... from Sanford, N.C. ... important events- snowball thrown by Bob McCullough in M... 3 class in return for an anonymously thrown ball, Bob's landing on said lady. long locks of blond hair donated to the War Department for precision instruments ... favorites- riding - surveying - music - height 5'7" ... weight 159 lbs... strong southern accent ... blue eyes.JP

ME and You

Just between ME and you, there's a convention coming up. The annual meeting of the ASME will be held in New York City from Nov. 30th to Dec. 4th in the Hotel Astor. Any student interested in attending the meeting in part or in whole can avoid payment of a registration fee; get information from Prof. Cruickshanks.

For those of you who will be in this city on Wed., Dec. 2nd, there's a treat in store for you. The program committee of our student ASME has been able to get Mr. Watson Davis to talk at our next meeting. Mr. Davis is a former editor of the Hatchet and received his Bachelors degree from the School of Engineering in 1918. As director of the Science Service here in Washington, editor of the engineering periodical "Science News Letter", and at present a member of the National Inventors Council, Mr. Davis has a very good background for his talk which will be on, "Science and the War"; time 8:30, room to be announced later. The Am. Soc. C.E. also will hear this talk.

And now some things and stuff. The new Engineers Lounge in M.E. 301 has been dubbed by the Physics Dept., and particularly by Dr. Cheney, as "The Roughnecks Rendezvous".

more so should we whom Mr. Ritchie is addressing, bc. Let us see you at the meeting and bring your ideas with you. We could do with a few more sparks, even if we do have poor commutation.

Short-Circuits

No doubt those of you who weren't to the picnic at Professor Aker's home are kicking themselves for missing such a swlegant time. A vote of thank thanks is in store for Prof. and Mrs. Akers, and we hope that at the next meeting some action will be taken to present a bouquet to Mrs. Akers, both for her friendly hospitality and also for her kindly accompaniment at the piano.

Speaking of the piano reminds us of the so-called singing indulged in by the more vocally-minded of the members. There were many old favorites sung that night, but none were so inspirational as the "Old King Cole" song. This was sung in a new version and contained the famous phrase "Beer, beer, boor," said the private, and who is there to contend that the amber brew was not the theme of the evening?

Because of unexpected reinforcements from the ME front, rug-cutting was at a minimum due to a lack of shin-shakin' space. Bor, them ME's know a good thing when they see it. By the same token, we are sure that the EE's will not let a good thing like this pass lightly. This column would like to see that a formal declaration of this affair as an annual or biennial picnic is made at our next meeting.

As for the meeting itself. The latest information we have received from Mr. Aker, of the Motor-Switch Corp., indicates that he will be with us. Many technical men outside of the Society are highly interested in his coming talk, the

AL. SOC. C. E.

THETA TAU

We dood it before and now we have dood it again. The party we had last Saturday nite was as successful a party as has ever been held around these parts. More than thirty people showed up to enjoy beer and oysters along with the good fellowship always present at such doings. As in the past, our three stand-bys, Profs. Cook, Strollo, and Walther, were there; at this party, however, something new was added - - namely several ME's, an EE, and an alumnus.

The attendance of non-members at the party indicates a note of "chumminess" which prevails among the Engineers. The recent EE's picnic to which we were all invited also brought this out.

Our next regular chapter meeting will be spent as guests of the EE's. This is in retaliation for the last meeting when they were our guests. The speaker will be Mr. Watson Davis, a former C.W.U. C. E., who will speak on "Science and War". Mr. Davis, a member of the National Inventor's Council is well qualified for his talk and the evening promises to be entertaining as well as enlightening.

Going back to the party (we wish we could) we'd like to express our thanks to Alfred Copeland who generously offered his home for our party, and also to James Skiles for handling the refreshments end so well.

Brother Kalv will be married next month to Miss Frances Douglas.

This year's celebration of Founders' Day was tops. We initiated four fine guys; George Cunney, James Norton, Dirk Brady and Ed Berdahl. The punch bowl was the best that Theta Tau has had since old Gussoy's concoctions.

Two month's coverage is a problem not in what to tell you but which. It is all old news to most of you but some of it no doubt has not been emphasized, so here goes!

The pledge party on November 14th at Ballou's home was a bang-up affair in a tremendous way without any injuries or damages. All were not present but we made up for that in practically every way. For instance, the punch, which was mixed by Bob Weston with Ritter's assistance could not have been better, even if all times two of us were there. However, it did take a few punch bowls full as trial mixtures before the proportions of fruit juice and "punch" were just right. You probably know in which direction this proportion varied.

This column is of the opinion that hereafter all Theta Tau informal functions should be organized as Ballou organized this one. Nearly everyone had a small job to do. This gave everyone some responsibility for the success of the party. Which means, that everyone tried that much harder to make the party a success. All they really had to do was try to have a good time and they did - - AND HOW!

This column believes that everybody not only appreciates but is wholeheartedly grateful to Ballou's mother for her generous hospitality and very pleasant nature.

It is not old news, but in case you missed it, Brother Genus was married October 5th to Miss Margaret Wenger. They live at the Colonial Village, Arlington, Virginia.

Brother Finan was killed in action in the Solomon Islands. He was a Lt. in the Marine Corps.

(Cont. on opposite Col.)

SIGMA TAU

In order to cooperate with our government in furthering the training of Engineers for the war effort, the University is now on an accelerated schedule. Acceleration, plus the uncertainties of the future, has led many new students to acquire the habit of glossing over their subjects in an effort to obtain a larger number of semester hours.

Sigma Tau wishes to stress the necessity of thoroughness of application in the pursuit of the initial engineering subjects. Advanced Engineering courses amplify and show the application of basic physical and mathematical laws. To give the new student a foundation on which to build all basic subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry are given in the Freshman year. A student who has thoroughly mastered his elementary courses has won half the battle for he can then concentrate on applying his knowledge to the specific problems given in the advanced courses. The student who has just "squeezed by" will find however, that much of his time must, by necessity, be spent in reviewing fundamental laws and principles which places him under a severe handicap.

Since the start of the war effort, our government has from time to time published lists of college subjects which it considers vital. None of these lists has ever failed to include the basic engineering subjects. Also, the various services, in setting up their reserve officer training programs, have required that students, regardless of their major curriculum, must take elementary courses in Mathematics and Physics.

Thus we see the double value of application to basic engineering subjects - in laying a strong foundation for future applied study and in acquiring the knowledge which today is considered vital to furthering our war effort.

To reward a job well done, Sigma Tau has decided to award its Freshman Medal to the student maintaining the highest scholastic average for his Freshman year, this spring. Students entering school since Sept. 1941 will be eligible for this award. So lets go fellows - help yourself, aid Uncle Sam, and perhaps win an award all in one stroke.

FOUR (Cont'd from p. 1)

Already comments have been heard as to what should be put here, and what should be taken from there. It is easy to sit back and criticize but it does not accomplish much. Write down your suggestions and send them to the Engineers' Council. They will be glad to hear them.

T.A.P.

RIFLE (Cont'd from p. 1)
either personally, or by one of the old faithfuls" who have composed the top notch G. U. Rifle Teams in the past. The coach-pupil system is now being used, and each student will be required to know why, as well as how to do the basic principles of small arms handling.

This course is being given at a cost of \$1.00 to the students of the University, and there are many students who are about to be inducted or who will go in a few months who could benefit tremendously through taking this course. The average student at G. U. knows next to nothing about small arms, and the course will make being drafted a whale of a lot easier. It will permit a man going into the services to by-pass elementary training, and go directly into advanced training.

Classes are being held on Mon., Wed., and Fridays, from 8 to 9 p.m., and men are urged to enroll in the new course which is to begin at once. Classes are held on the Range in the basement of Coecon Hall.

ARE YOU HELPING IN THE WAR EFFORT?

THE CAUTIOUS SELDOM ERR

Little boy: "Mother, do they have skyscrapers in heaven?"
His mother: "No, dear, it takes engineers to build skyscrapers".

Teacher: "What do you consider the greatest achievement of the Romans

Student: "Speaking Latin".

STRICTLY BETWEEN WOMEN

"The first time Johnny tried to kiss me, I put him in his place, and darn it, he stays there".

Bellhop: "Telegram for Mr. Sleidopavrikanowsky."

Mr. Sleidopavrikanowsky: "What initial, please?"

One cannot always be a hero, but one can always be a man.

Goethe

Mrs. McTavish (looking out of the window): "Mack, here comes company for dinner."

Mr. Mc. : "Quick, everybody run out on the porch with a toothpick."

Let no man imagine that he has no influence. Whoever he may be, and wherever he may be placed, the man who thinks becomes a light and a power.

Henry George

"I can't find any of those Russian generals in 'WHO's WHO.'"
"Why not try 'WITCHES VITCH?'"

The world may owe every man a living, but some of us are poor collectors. The Pick-up.

Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed. Abraham Lincoln

MARRY NOT AN ENGINEER

Verily, I say unto ye, marry not an engineer;

For an engineer is a strange being and possessed of many evils.

Yea, he speaketh always in parabols which he calleth formulae,

He wieldeth a big stick which he calleth a slide rule, And he hath only one bible, a handbook.

He thinketh only of strains and stresses, and without end of thermodynamics.

He sheweth always a serious aspect and seemeth not to know how to smile.

He picketh his seat in a car by the springs thereof and not by the damsels.

Neither does he know a waterfall except by its horsepower,

Nor a damsel except by her weight, nor a sunset except that he must turn on the light.

Always he carrieth his books with him,

And he entertaineth his sweetheart with steam tables.

(Continued next month)

Note Bene

Only fools and dead men don't change their minds; fools won't, dead men can't.

One lie must be thatched by another or it will soon leak thru.
Owen

HUSH HUSH

When asked about his plan of campaign, General "Stonewall" Jackson replied to an inquisitive chaplain, "Can you keep a secret?"

"Yes," the eager cleric answered. "Well, so can I." Rob't Clark